

Appl. No. 10/604,710
Amdt. Dated October 15, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 28, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The title has been amended to reflect the subject matter of the invention as presented in the current amendment.

As advised by the examiner, the Specification has been modified to remove the CIP information in the Abstract, in order to conform to acceptable Abstract presentation, and to clearly represent the subject of the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. A minimum concentration of 40% has been specified. Such an extract effected the subject of the invention which is the discovery that specially prepared licorice extracts that contain 40% or greater levels of glabridin inhibit metalloproteases and hyaluronidase, with utility in the management of conditions affected by these enzymes. The prior art JP 06256151A and JP 3195683 B2 address skin inflammation and deposition of pigment caused by UV radiation and skin disturbance through the moisturizing activity and synergistic action of a composition consisting of animal extracts (collagen, placenta extract, hydrolysed konkiorin, elastin, fibronectin and/or vitronectin) with glabridin (0.001% to 10%). Collagen, placenta extract and other animal ingredients are reported in literature to be added to cosmetic compositions to supplement natural levels of collagen, elastin, fibronectin and other matrix proteins in an individual. Thus the composition of the above cited prior art addresses inflammation and other deteriorative effects of UV radiation through addition of collagen, elastin and other matrix proteins, and the beneficial effects of glabridin in inhibiting melanin deposition. There is no mention of the activity of glabridin

as a metalloprotease and hyaluronidase inhibiting agent in this prior art. The current invention is novel in that it discloses the metalloprotease and hyaluronidase inhibiting activities of extracts containing a defined amount of glabridin (40% to 90%).

Claims 2,3,8,9 are similarly amended to clearly represent the subject of this invention and the novel applications of the licorice extract that contains 40% or greater of glabridin. These applications are not anticipated in the prior art identified above (Ogawa et al.).

Claim 3 has been amended for clarity with the word “incorporating” removed.

Claims 4,5,6,7 have been canceled in light of the prior art cited by the examiner and the comment that these claims are anticipated as they recite using an old composition or structure with the “use” directed to a result or property of that composition or structure.

Claim 10 has been amended for clarity and the phrase “among others” has been removed.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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